

INQUIRER AND CHRONICLE.



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, Feb. 15, 1856.

"Fearless and Free."

DAVID OVER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

On Monday night we happened in the Court House while Wm. P. Schell, Esq., had the floor, and are pleased to say that there was quite a crowd there, among whom we could recognize at least one half who were members of the American party.

A great deal of confusion ensued here on the attempt of Judge Schell to oppose the anti-Temperance resolution offered, but after speaking several minutes he was finally cried down amid much confusion among his friends and foes.

More Locooco Legislation.

The present Locooco Legislature has passed a resolution to take a recess, from the 15th to the 20th of the present month, and the members charge pay for this time, while they are at home attending to their own business.

We have not been able to render that attention to our paper this week that we would like, but will try to make amends hereafter.

CONGRESS.

On Monday last, Gen. Collins, of Tennessee, was elected Clerk of the House; Mr. Glassburner, of York, Pa., Democrat, Sergeant at Arms; Nathan Darling, American, of New York, Doorkeeper; and Robert Morris, American, of Philadelphia, Post Master.

AN INTERESTING QUERY.—A contemporary well remarks that the effects of Southern institutions and Southern policy upon many prominent men of our day furnish a sad commentary upon the human stability of character when confronted by imaginary personal sacrifices and deprivations.

Cor. Inquirer and Chronicle.

HARRISBURG Feb. 11, 1856.

Mr. Editor. I believe I have as yet written you nothing about the Passmore Williamson case, now pending before the Legislature. Your readers will doubtless remember that after Williamson got out of prison for his pretended contempt of court, he brought an action against Judge Kane for false imprisonment.

The resolution of the House adjourning from the 15th to the 25th was defeated in the Senate as I presumed it would when I wrote last.

You are perhaps aware that a case of contested election has been pending here since the beginning of the session. A committee to try the matter was elected, and democrats but one. The majority ruled against McGhee the American and setting member upon as alim pretext, we venture to say, as was ever used to deprive a man of a seat which he honestly and fairly deserved by a clear majority of all the votes polled in his district.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Mr. Forney is dangerously ill from an attack of inflammation of the bowels, supposed to have been produced by the excitement and ever exertion incident to the discharge of his late duties as clerk of the House.

THE LONDON TIMES ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

We publish an interesting and rather a gratifying article this week from the London Times on the president's message and American affairs generally in their relation with Great Britain. The tone of the article was somewhat different to what we had expected; and as the reflex of popular sentiment, which the Times professes to exhibit, we may infer that the people of England are not quite so indifferent about a war with the United States as the government would seem to be from its strange construction of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

We pass over the vain-glorification which contemplates the powerful British navy sweeping the stars and stripes from the ocean. That operation has been tried heretofore and with very qualified success. But we admit the great injury that would be eventually inflicted by the two nations, upon each other, and the fearful destruction that would ensue.

After some remarks upon the points of difference between the two countries, arising out of the diverse construction of the Central American treaty, the Times quotes the President's message, and adds very significantly:

"He (the President of the United States) leaves the question to the diplomatists, hoping, perhaps, that it will one day settle itself, or that it may receive an early solution from Gen. Walker."

This is, of course, quite gratuitous, but it is pointedly indicative of the course the Times would like the affair to take. And why? Only because it would relieve the British government from the necessity of conceding its manifest if not wilful error of construction, and withdrawing from its intrusive occupation of Central American territory.

With these facts before it, the London Times is unwilling to believe that the diplomacy of our government is straight forward and conducted with a view to an end, or is incapable of understanding that sort of policy.

The very next sentence to that we have quoted above from the London Times is as follows:

"It must be the desire of the civilized world to secure the neutrality of the narrow strip over which passes the modern highway between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and England and the United States have a common interest in that quarter."

This is only another phraseology for the letter and spirit of the treaty, and is precisely our construction of it. But we should like to know how such a neutrality is to be secured, and how the interests of England and the United States can be maintained in common, in that quarter, if England is to occupy to the exclusion of the United States, and to exert an influence in any portion of the territory independent of the United States!

The view of the Times upon the enlistment question, if its premises are fairly stated, is a more reasonable one. We think the action on the part of the British authorities a very offensive one, and the complexity of the British government, and the surreptitious practice which seems to have been authorized in this country, highly discrepant.

It desires. The "apology" hitherto made public in the United States only amounts to a denial of the intention of the British government to do what it virtually did; a disclaimer of any intention to violate the laws of the United States, while taking special and secret measures to accomplish an end in contravention of them.

A GREAT WRONG.

WILL THE PEOPLE RIGHT IT?

We are about to record another case of Locooco Proscription and Subserviency to Romanism, which we venture to assert, has never been equalled within the limits of our broad Union—a case which should awaken to immediate remedial action the dormant patriotism and republicanism of every American into whose hands this article may come.

On the day preceding the last General Election in this State, the hands at the Depot and Boat Slip in this place were notified by James Pennell, Superintendent of the Depot, to appear at his office, then and there to answer certain interrogatories touching their political opinions.

The first denouncement set forth the fact that the Democratic party was the dominant party of the Commonwealth, and that the Portage Railroad was controlled by its agents. Then followed the assertion that every employer of those agents should likewise be Democrats, and that those who were DEPENDENT upon the Democratic party for their DAILY BREAD should uniformly vote the Democratic ticket.

The second denouncement presented the form of an OATH which the Assistant Superintendent commanded should be administered to the Depot and Boat Slip hands. Those who refused to SWEAR were to be immediately discharged. Subjoined is a literal copy of the Oath.

"You do swear that you never belonged to any secret political organization, known by the name of 'Know Nothings,' 'Star Spangled Banner' or 'Sons of the Sires of Seventy-Six.'"

This Oath was then administered by Esquire Shannon to a majority of the twenty-five who were thus asked to become the vassals of Locoocoism and Rome. A portion were qualified upon the Book and the remainder by the uplifted hand. Those who refused to come under the yoke were John Hite, J. M. Hackenberg, John Tittle, G. W. Singley, David Lucas, Josiah Slater and Morganize Brown—all Americans by birth and all Protestants in religion.

Davis Lucas, one of the seven, is an old man of sixty-seven winters, an honest and respected citizen, and the son of a Soldier of the Revolution. His father served through five years of War of Independence as a soldier at the storming of Ticonderoga and Stony Point, and with Washington at Monmouth, Brandywine, and Morristown.

Because these seven men refused to swear fealty to the Church of Rome, because they refused to submit to the tyranny of our mind and body imposed by a band of corrupt office-holders, they were told to go their way; that their places might be filled by some humble servants of the Pope and by men who could swear with truth that they were not the sons of Revolutionary Sires!

As a matter of curiosity, we subjoin a classification of the seifs now employed at the Depot and Slip; a majority of whom were sworn as aforesaid, while the remainder have since been selected to fill the situations made vacant by the deception of the seven Protestant Americans.

- Catholic Foreigners, 17.
Catholic Americans, 12.
Protestant Foreigners, 8.
American Non-conmittal, 8.
Not one Protestant American! Not one!

We need not comment further upon these facts. Americans of Cambria, do your duty! Remember the 7th of October! Cambria Tribune.

"Coffee you see, dem two ladies ob color cross de street dar!"
"Yes I see de dem angels, Pompey!"
"Well, don't dey look mazingly like only anoder?"
"True, Pompey, I gib you credit for your nice penitention, dey do mazingly 'zeem like one anoder,' aparently dey one ob disside."

More Troubles in Kansas.

The telegraph brings accounts of renewed difficulties in Kansas, and it is hoped will prove to have been exaggerated. If true, it is high time the General Government did something to avert the lawless aggressions of these border ruffians.

The pro-slavery party made an attack at Easton on the free State party while the latter was holding an election for State officers under the constitution of Kansas. The free State men did not fire a single gun when first attacked, but got ready (into line) for a fight, and the pro-slavery men held aloof.

Another letter states that Sparks was taken prisoner, had made his escape, and was at Easton. He objected to being taken and thought it better to sell his life as dearly as possible on the spot; but his associates urged him to surrender, claiming that they would all be slain.

Dr. E. P. Brown, a Kentuckian, was taken by the mob while on his way home, with several others. He objected to being taken and thought it better to sell his life as dearly as possible on the spot; but his associates urged him to surrender, claiming that they would all be slain.

The following letter we copy from the Philadelphia Daily Sun, and as Mr. Chambers is a worthy Locooco politician, and has been heretofore warfully enlisted by the Bedford Gazette, we publish it for the gratification of Mr. Bowman, who says that the Americans are the only ones in favor of the liquor law of the last session;

not see anything ridiculous about it. A full account of one phase of this courtship will be found in another column, and if anything more ridiculous than the course of the affair of the Northern Light, can be found in his story, we should like published it as a curiosity.

The Sacramento Union announces that a party of fifty recruits expected to leave San Juan on the 5th. The San Francisco Sun states that the Uncle Tom would carry away another party of one hundred and fifty, headed by Colonel Sutter.

The Nicaragua, in the course of an article on Honduras, disclaims any idea of invasion, and holds this language: "Nicaragua so long torn and devastated by internal strife, needs repose. Her cities must be rebuilt, her lands recultivated, commerce recalled to her shores, and the active interchange of productions and of ideas with the world at large will again diffuse riches and contentment throughout all her borders."

On the whole therefore, the indications are, that the Walker adventures have fully established themselves in Nicaragua. The President of Guatemala, in his Annual Message says that "an impartial Government has been established in Nicaragua," and expresses his sincere desire, that the State "may recover from the serious losses which she has sustained, through the agency of long prolonged disorders."

Letter from Rev. John Chambers.

The following letter we copy from the Philadelphia Daily Sun, and as Mr. Chambers is a worthy Locooco politician, and has been heretofore warfully enlisted by the Bedford Gazette, we publish it for the gratification of Mr. Bowman, who says that the Americans are the only ones in favor of the liquor law of the last session;

PHILADELPHIA, Jan., 26, 1856. My Dear Friend:—I see from the papers that the DEMOCRATS have passed to second reading a bill to repeal the restraining Liquor Law, and it is expected to-day the bill will pass the House of Representatives.

Now, let me propose to you and through you to our party, that they forthwith pass a bill requiring the Commissioners of each County in the State to have erected, or placed at all the cross-roads, a trough with a half a dozen or more mugs chained fast, and those troughs well and constantly supplied with rum and lager, that the thirsty whiskey drinking Democrats may have their fill.

It does seem to me as though the DEMOCRATS were resolved that all the evils of intemperance shall be entailed upon this land perpetually. It is to me most galling and mortifying that the political party which I consider the true party of the county, should so identify itself with RUM, RAUS and RUIN.

I consider the true party of the county, should so identify itself with RUM, RAUS and RUIN: My dear sir, I must deeply regret that you, as a FATHER, and a good citizen, should lend your influence to this vile traffic. It matters not, in my judgment, how much of the rum sellers' money may pass from their pockets to those of the Democratic members. Now, allow me to ask you, as an honest, clever fellow, have you ever known any good result to the individual, the family, or the community, from rum-drinking? Give me one example in which rum-drinking has reformed one man!

For thirty years I have been asking for this example, but this far in vain. Will you do me the favor to ask the Democratic members for one example? I ask it from the DEMOCRATIC members of the Legislature because it is evident to all who will see, that they are the friends of rum, and that rum is their friend. Surely they can say something good of their old friend. I presume Hughly will have high Mass performed for all the precious whiskey-souls in the Legislature. I trust in God that there is humanity enough in the Senate to stave the burning wrongs of the House. Yours truly,

JOHN CRAMER.

DREADFUL RAILROAD COLLISION.

NILESDALE, Michigan Feb. 7.—A collision occurred on the Michigan Southern Railroad, near this place last night, between the Eastern and Western Express trains. The trackman, baggage master, fireman, and another man were killed. The engineer, brakeman and train-boy, had each a leg broken.

The baggage car of the Eastern train was burned, with all the baggage and mail contained in it.

ARRIVAL OF THE PERSIA.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The new steamship Persia arrived at her berth at half past 9 o'clock, she bringing dates to the 26th, with one week later dates. The steamship Belgoce had put back leaky. The Arrago arrived at Southampton on the 25th ult.

The peace prospects are apparently progressing, but some days must yet elapse before the preliminaries can be signed, but the Czar has ordered Gortschakoff to suspend hostilities in the Crimea. Russia's sincerity is as much doubted here as on former occasions, but appearances are all fair and straight-forward. The order to cease hostilities has been given by the Czar, without waiting for a formal armistice, although it is rumored that an armistice has been agreed upon for three months.

The Nicaragua, in the course of an article on Honduras, disclaims any idea of invasion, and holds this language: "Nicaragua so long torn and devastated by internal strife, needs repose. Her cities must be rebuilt, her lands recultivated, commerce recalled to her shores, and the active interchange of productions and of ideas with the world at large will again diffuse riches and contentment throughout all her borders."

ASSAULT ON HORACE GREELY.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, writing on the 30th ult., gives the following particulars of the brutal assault made upon Mr. GREELY by Mr. RUST, M. C. from Arkansas:

Hon. Horace Greely was twice assaulted this afternoon by Mr. Rust, representative from Arkansas. The first attack was made as Mr. Greely was walking down in front of the Capitol immediately after the House adjourned. He had got about half way down from the Capitol steps to the avenue, when Mr. Rust stepped up to him, and calling him aside, and inquiring if he was Mr. Greely, asked, "Are you a non-resistance?" Mr. Greely replied, "That depends upon circumstances."

Mr. Rust then hit him a blow on the right temple, and followed it up by others. The affair was sudden. Mr. Greely had his hands in his great coat pockets, and could make no resistance. He said, "Who is this man? I don't know him." Mr. Rust answered, "Damn you, you'll know me after this." Mr. Rust walked on, and Mr. Greely came along towards his lodgings, at the National Hotel. When near the steps, Mr. Rust met him, and exclaimed, "Do you know me now?" Mr. Greely said, "It is Rust, of Arkansas, I believe." Mr. Rust then raised a cane and struck at Mr. Greely's head. Mr. Greely warded off the blow from his head, and received it on his left arm, which was pretty badly bruised.

Several gentlemen rushed in, and the assault was stopped. I saw Mr. Greely, about eight o'clock, in his room. He was writing at his table, with wet cloths bound round his head and arm. No bone was broken. The attack was provoked by the severe letter about Mr. Rust's proposition, published in Monday's Tribune.

THE CASE OF PARSONS.—According to the Blair County Whig, the trial of James Parsons, of Virginia, charged with a breach of the peace, in attempting to arrest and carry away a colored man, some time since, in that county, took place last week. Parsons was represented by eminent counsel from Virginia, sent to try the case by Gov. Wise, but the evidence not being satisfactory, the District Attorney entered a nolle prosequi, and the defendant was discharged.

This is the case over which the Virginia Legislature became so rampant as to pass through the House the disgraceful bill to which allusion was made in this paper last week. Parsons, upon cautioning against interfering upon the law, while arresting the fugitive, took occasion to denounce the laws of this State, a privilege which good people of Blair county thought he had no right to take, and so they arrested him, and the colored man got off.

THE LAW OF LABEL.—Col. GETZ, as we predicted he would, has read in place in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, the annexed bill on Labels. It covers the whole ground, and is exactly what the conductors of the press desire. We prefer it vastly to the bill of Mr. MORRIS, and hope to see it receive the support of every liberal minded man in both branches of the Legislature.

SEC. 1. That from and after the passage of this act, on the trial of indictments for writing or publishing a libel, the truth of the matter charged as libelous, may be given in evidence; and if the jury in any such case shall find that the act was induced by good motives, and with no malicious intent, and that the matter so charged is true, it shall operate to the acquittal of the defendant or defendants.

SEC. 2. That in actions for damages for the writing or publishing of a libel, where the truth is pleaded and given in evidence, if it be found that the same was written or published properly as public information, and with no malicious or malicious motives, the jury may find for the defendant or defendants.